

Appl. No. 09/314,615
Reply to Office Action of January 26, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Office Action dated January 26, 2005 is respectfully requested. Claims 14 and 16-28 have been rejected. Claims 29 and 30 have been added. As such, claims 14 and 16-30 are currently pending.

New claim 29 recites similar limitations as recited in claim 14, and new claim 30 recites similar limitations as recited in claim 16. Therefore, it is believed that no new matter has been added with the introduction of new claims 29 and 30.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 14 and 16-28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,822,406, issued October 13, 1998 to Brown (hereinafter "Brown").

1. Independent claim 14 and its dependents

Independent claim 14 recites a method for managing audio transducers. The method includes receiving a configuration for a plurality of audio transducers that specifies that audio signals are to be sent to a first audio transducer and received from a second audio transducer. The configuration for the plurality of transducers is stored.

The Examiner has argued that Brown teaches the method of claim 14, including teaching that a received configuration for a plurality of audio transducers which specifies that audio signals are to be sent to a first audio transducer and received from a second audio transducer is stored. The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's argument, and submits that Brown does not teach of storing a configuration that is received.

Appl. No. 09/314,615
Reply to Office Action of January 26, 2005

Lines 32-38 of column 6 of Brown, in addition to Table 1 of Brown, have been cited by the Examiner as teaching of storing a configuration. Table 1 shows "Modes of Operation," and lines 32-38 of column 6 appear to teach that different modes can be programmably selected by a user. However, even after a careful review of these sections of Brown by the Applicant, the Applicant is unable to locate any teaching of receiving a configuration and then the storing the configuration that is received. There is no indication that the Modes of Operation in Table 1 of Brown were received and then stored. Even a user selection of a Mode of Operation is not taught as being stored, and there is no teaching that Table 1 is created by receiving and then storing the Modes of Operation. Therefore, claim 14 is believed to be allowable over Brown for at least this reason.

Claims 16-21 each depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 14 and are, therefore, each believed to be allowable over Brown for at least the reasons set forth with respect to claim 14. Each of these dependent claims recites additional limitations which, when considered in light of claim 14, are believed to further distinguish the claimed invention over the art of record. By way of example, claim 16 recites that a stored configuration is restored when a third audio transducer has been turned off. On pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action dated January 26, 2005, the Examiner has argued that Brown teaches detecting the status of local telephone 210 from a LPOHD signal and routing audio signals to the local telephone 201 if it is off-hook. The Examiner further argues that Brown teaches detecting from off-hook to on-hook to restore a previous configuration, and cites lines 57-62 of column 10 of Brown. In the passage of Brown cited by the Examiner, Brown teaches that an LPOHD signal from detector 202 is used to determine a local telephone hang-up, and does not teach of or suggest restoring a previous configuration such that audio signals are sent to a first audio transducer rather than to a third audio transducer. Determining a local telephone hang-up using an LPOHD signal is not equivalent to, and does not reasonably suggest, restoring a stored configuration when a third transducer has been turned off. The Applicants are unable to identify any passage in Brown which teaches the limitations of claim 16. Therefore, claim 16 is further believed to be allowable over Brown for at least this additional reason.

Appl. No. 09/314,615
Reply to Office Action of January 26, 2005

2. Independent claim 22 and its dependents

Claim 22 recites a method of managing audio transducers which includes receiving a user selection of an audio transducer, determining if there is a default audio transducer that corresponds to the selected audio transducer, and automatically selecting the default audio transducer if there is one. Finally, the configuration is for a plurality of audio transducers is sent to an audio transducer switch.

The Examiner has argued that Brown teaches the limitations of claim 22. The Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's assertions, and submit that among other deficiencies of Brown, Brown does not teach automatically selecting a default audio transducer so that it is to be utilized if it is determine there is a default audio transducer that corresponds to the selected audio transducer. On page 5 of the Final Office Action dated January 26, 2005, the Examiner addresses claim 22, but does not address this limitation. After a thorough reading of Brown, The Applicants are unable to identify any passage which might be construed as teaching this limitation. While Brown appears to teach that a user may select a mode of operation (Brown, column 6 at lines 31-37), selecting a mode of operation is not equivalent to selecting an audio transducer. As clearly shown in Table 1 of Brown, modes of operation are modes such as a data/fax mode, a local record mode, a local playback mode, etc. The modes of operation are not equivalent to audio transducers. As such, claim 22 is believed to be allowable over Brown for at least this reason.

In addition to the selection of modes of operation not being equivalent to the selection of audio transducers, it is respectfully submitted that the modes of operation are not automatically selected. Claim 22 requires that a default audio transducer is automatically selected if it is determined that there is a default audio transducer that corresponds to a selected audio transducer. Since Brown does not teach or even reasonably suggest this limitation, claim 22 is believed to be allowable for at least this additional reason.

Appl. No. 09/314,615
Reply to Office Action of January 26, 2005

It is respectfully submitted that Brown also does not teach of determining if there is a default audio transducer that corresponds to a selected audio transducer. The Examiner's arguments with regards to this limitation are not clear to the Applicants. On page 5 of the Office Action dated January 26, 2005, the Examiner appears to assert that a microphone of a local telephone is a selected audio transducer, and, further, that a default audio transducer that corresponds to the selected audio transducer is an earphone of the local telephone. It is not clear to the Applicants how an earphone is a default audio transducer to a microphone that is a selected audio transducer.

Claims 23-28 each depend from claim 22 and are, therefore, each believed to be allowable over Brown for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 22.

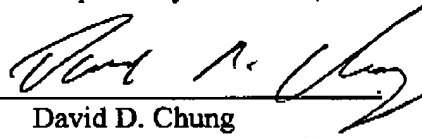
Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the Applicants believe all the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at (650) 694-5339.

Date: 11 May 05

SIEMENS CORPORATION
Customer Number: 28524
Intellectual Property Department
170 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, New Jersey 08830
ATTENTION: Elsa Keller, IP Department
Telephone: (732) 321-3026

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
David D. Chung
Registration No. 38,409
Attorney for Applicants
Tel: 650-694-5339
Fax: 650-968-4517